

What is claimed:

1. A method for processing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:  
accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;  
removing the file attachment from the electronic mail message;  
storing the file attachment in an attachment location; and  
inserting a hyperlink in the message, the hyperlink associated with the attachment location, and configured to cause the submission of validation information to a server storing the attachment.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hyperlink is configured such that accessing the hyperlink will cause the submission of a password to the server storing the attachment.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the attachment location is a location on a web server and the hyperlink includes the address of the web server.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a low bandwidth version of the file attachment upon request.
5. A method for processing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:  
accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;  
determining whether to remove the file attachment;  
in response to a positive determination, storing the file attachment in an attachment location; and  
inserting in the message, an executable configured to retrieve the attachment from the attachment location.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable is configured to prompt a recipient for validation information.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable includes validation information which enables the retrieval of the attachment from the attachment location.
8. The method of claim 5, further comprising generating a low bandwidth version of the file attachment upon request.
9. The method of claim 5, further comprising converting the file to a commonly usable format.
10. The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining an identity of a recipient of the electronic mail message.
11. The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a domain of a recipient email address.
12. A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to process electronic mail messages, the instructions comprising computer code for:
  - accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;
  - determining whether to remove the file attachment according to previously determined criteria; and
  - in response to a positive determination, storing the file attachment in an attachment location.
13. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising inserting a

hyperlink in the message, the hyperlink associated with the attachment location.

14. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising inserting a data file in the message, the data file configured to enable retrieval of the attachment.

15. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising storing a low bandwidth version of the file attachment.

16. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising converting the file to streaming content.

17. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a domain of a recipient mail address.

18. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a type of the file attachment.

19. A system for processing electronic mail messages, the system comprising:  
a message parser configured to:

accept an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;

determine whether to remove the file attachment;

in response to a positive determination, store the file attachment in an attachment location; and

insert an attachment reference associated with the attachment location and configured to cause the submission of validation information to a server storing the attachment location; and

a attachment reference module configured to manage the generation of the

hyperlink.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the attachment reference is a hyperlink.
21. The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a size of the file attachment.
22. The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining an identity of a sender of the electronic mail message.
23. The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a type of the file attachment.
24. The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment reference is an executable.
25. The system of claim 24, wherein the executable is configured to prompt a recipient for validation information and then submit the received validation information to the server storing the attachment location.
26. The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment is a media file and the system is further configured to stream the attachment to a recipient.
27. The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment is a document including text and the system is further configured to translate the text.
28. The system of claim 19, wherein the server storing the attachment prompts a recipient for validation information when the recipient attempts to retrieve the attachment.
29. The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment reference is a data file.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the data file is configured to enable an application stored on a recipient computer to retrieve the attachment from the server storing the attachment.